AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 27, as follows:

As represented in the enclosed Figure 4, the Inventors have identified upon the genomic DNA (SEQ ID NO: 10) 5 exons and 5 introns. By RT-PCR (using primers 5'-gggtatgggactagctggcg-3' (SEQ ID NO: 15) and 5'-ctggccaacattccaattgcag-3'(SEQ ID NO: 16)) and according to the genomic sequence, 4 different cDNAs corresponding to the transcription of the said genomic DNA have been identified in human lung and in human brain. A first cDNA of 736 bp corresponds to the cDNA encoding the complete amino acid sequence of the B18 protein according to the invention. However, 3 other cDNAs of 601, 604, and 469 bp were also identified, and comprise specific splicings of one of more exons.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 18, as shown:

Unknown genes linked to different disorders have been localised in the same region of chromosome 11. Therefore, B18 gene is possibly associated with these disorders:

- atopy (atopic hypersensitivity: asthma, hay fever and eczema; MIM ~~n°~~No. 147050 at OMIM of NCBI internet site),
- high bone mass syndrome (MIM ~~n°~~No. 601884),
- ~~osteopetrosis~~ osteoporosis (MIM ~~n°~~No. 259700),
- osteoporosis-pseudoglioma syndrome (MIM ~~n°~~No.~~259770~~601884) and
- Bardet-Biedl syndrome 1 (MIM ~~n°~~No. 209901).